

REMARKS:

The Examiner has indicated the allowability of Claims 31 through 34. The minor amendments necessary to overcome the objection of 35 U.S.C. 112 have been entered so that it is believed that all of these claims are now in good order for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 21 through 26 which are now cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 27 through 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on Pfeiffer in view of Linden.

Pfeiffer discloses a shelf structure which is formed of a shelf material defining a generally planar shelf body together with a hanger element separate from the shelf material at the front and rear which are draped over the front and rear beams.

Claim 31 has been amended to make clear the following important features of distinction.

- a) The shelf is formed from a planar shelf material which is bent at the apex to form the inclined main shelf portion and the rear portion both of which are formed from the same shelf material bent at the apex.
- b) The apex is located at a spaced position above the rear beam so that the rear portion extends downwardly from the spaced position above the rear beam to the receptacle of the rear beam.

In Pfeiffer there is no shelf material bent in the manner now defined in Claim 27. In Pfeiffer there is no apex which is spaced above the rear beam so that

there is a portion of the shelf material from which the structure is bent which extends downwardly from the apex spaced above the rear beam into the receptacle of the rear beam. In Pfeiffer the hanger 20 is merely draped over the rear beam so that it does not define any apex which is located at a spaced position above the rear beam.

The Examiner will appreciate that neither Pfeiffer nor Linden disclose the arrangement clearly now defined in Claim 27 including the bench shelf material and the bend at the apex which is located well above the rear beam. This structure is simply not disclosed nor suggested in any way in the prior art documents since each of these prior art documents defines in effect a planar shelf which is merely draped or hung over the respective beam by hanger elements which are separate from the shelf itself.

It is submitted therefore that all of the claims are now in good order for allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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Lynn Leatherdale DATE: May 11/04